

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for maintaining a stable RF level in an optical link, said apparatus comprising:

a transmitter section;

a receiver section;

a plurality of feedback loops operationally connected to said transmitter section; and

a plurality of feedback loops operationally connected to said receiver section; and wherein the transmitter section includes a laser producing an optical signal, the laser having a back facet communicating with the optical signal, the laser including a back facet monitor circuit providing a back facet feedback signal depending on the optical signal, the transmitter feedback loops include an RF level derived from a back facet feedback signal.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feedback loops perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of:

- i. RF level stabilization effects;
- ii. preserve or change optical modulation index (OMI);
- iii. adjust output power;
- iv. compensate for temperature changes;
- v. compensate for laser or system tracking errors;
- vi. provide gain at proper places in circuitry; and
- vii. provide RF input changes.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feedback loops operationally connected to said transmitter section include a first, second, and third transmitter section feedback loops.